

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (Currently Amended) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100 μ m, ~~consisting wholly or partly of comprising~~ at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide wherein said linear polysaccharide is 1,4- α -D-polyglucan.
2. (Withdrawn) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100 μ m, ~~consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide as claimed in claim 1~~, which has been prepared in a biotechnological process.
3. (Currently Amended) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100 μ m as claimed in claim 2, ~~consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide~~ which has been prepared by a biocatalytic process.
4. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100 μ m as claimed in claim 2, ~~consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide~~ which has been prepared by a fermentation process.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using polysaccharide synthases.
7. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using starch synthases.
8. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using glycosyltransferases.
9. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using α -1,4-glucan transferases.
10. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using glycogen synthases.
11. (Currently Amended) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using amylosucrases.
12. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5 The microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1,4- α -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using phosphorylases.

13. (Currently Amended) (Withdrawn) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein the linear polysaccharides ~~have~~ polysaccharide has been prepared by enzymatic treatment of branched or highly branched polysaccharides.
- 14-25 cancelled.
26. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having an average diameter of 100 nm to 100 μ m.
27. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having a narrow distribution of particle diameters (dispersity).
28. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 27, wherein the dispersity of the particle diameters d_w to d_n is 1.0 to 10.0.
29. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, which additionally comprise one or more biodegradable polymers.
30. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, which additionally comprise one or more active substances.
31. (Currently amended) A process for preparing spherical microparticles which ~~consist wholly or partly of~~ which comprises dissolving a water-insoluble linear polysaccharides ~~by dissolving~~ the water-insoluble linear polysaccharide in a solvent, introducing the solution into a precipitant, cooling the mixture resulting therefrom, and removing the microparticles formed and wherein said linear polysaccharide is 1,4- α -D-polyglucan.

32. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein solution and precipitant are mixed at temperatures from 20 to 50°C, and the mixture is cooled to temperatures from + 10 to- 10°C.
33. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the solvent is dimethyl sulfoxide.
34. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the precipitant is water or an aqueous medium.
35. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the solution is prepared in the presence of one or more polymers and/or of one or more active substances.
36. (Previously Presented) A controlled delivery of active substance which comprises the microparticles as claimed in claim 1.
37. (Previously Presented) A standard for determining the size of particles which comprises using the microparticles as claimed in claim 1.
38. (Previously Presented) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having an average diameter of 1 to 3 μm and the dispersity of the particle diameters dw to dn is 2.0 to 2.6.